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Is it not more profitable to consider the protection afforded to the public in Germany against the flotation of watered stock, the criminal penalties provided in the new German Commercial Code for offenses committed by promotion and organizers, and the unparalleled efficiency of the English Companies Act of 1908 as far as it relates to the dissolution of corporations? The author has performed a true service to corporate jurisprudence, for even the lawyer of myopic vision must concede that a knowledge of the practical workings of English and Continental reforms cannot but prove of inestimable value to those working along similar lines in this country. It is to the discredit of our bench and bar—and last but assuredly not least—our law schools—that so slight attention is paid to such comparative study of private law. In the field of constitutional law, of so-called public law, similar blindness does not prevail. In criminal law and procedure, there has been lately a great awakening, almost a renaissance; its most conspicuous feature, perhaps, is the willingness “to look abroad” and to shake off our foolish American legal self-sufficiency. In other fields, for the most part, a spirit of prejudiced provincialism still rules. The dawn, however, is at hand. The author’s study is a step in the right direction. A difficult task, you say? Very true, but not an impossible one: *forti et fidei nihil difficile*.

I. Maurice Wormser.

FOUR PHASES OF AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT. By JOHN BASSETT MOORE. Baltimore: THE JOHNS HOPKINS PRESS. 1912. pp. 218.

The four phases are Federalism, Democracy, Imperialism and Expansion. These topics do not strictly confine the treatment which is a study of lines of institutional development that from its legal precision will be particularly valuable to lawyers and students of jurisprudence.

Professor Moore points out that the treaty of peace by which our national independence was recognized involved the development of national authority inasmuch as it provided “that creditors on either side shall meet with no lawful impediment to the recovery of the full value, in sterling money, of all *bona fide* debts contracted.” He remarks that “by this Article power was assumed not only to annul the legislation of the States on the particular subject but to annul it retroactively.” This contemplated a subordination of state authority to national authority which it took the adoption of the constitution to make effective. The national tendency resulted from the stress of circumstances and the same causative influence is still vigorously operative.

In describing the legal aspects of the democratic movement Professor Moore remarks that although that movement in this country has been intensely individualistic it is not necessarily so, but may be highly socialistic. “Socialism begins when human wants cannot be gratified without trenching upon the position of those who have been forehanded in gaining control of the country’s material resources.” In this concise statement the cause of current inclination toward state socialism is exposed. In pursuing the implications of this theme Professor Moore enters into a most interesting and instructive discussion of the point whether the federal courts have a common-law jurisdiction. The array of acts which he gives form an important contribution to legal literature.

The chapter on Imperialism is also replete with striking data as to the scope of public authority. The author shows that in both domestic and foreign affairs there has been a strong tendency since 1860 towards the exercise of Imperial powers and that this tendency is still on the increase. The succeeding chapter on Expansion is virtually a continuation of the argument of the preceding chapter. He contrasts the facts of record showing steady acquisition of territory with the customary pretences that the American people are free from territorial ambitions and are of a peace-loving disposition. The truth is that since the battle of Waterloo the United States has spent more years in war than Prussia by two to one. Professor Moore makes a timely remark when he says it is an error to suppose that the maintenance of large standing armies incites a militant spirit. On the contrary the system works powerfully against aggression.

These comments touch only upon some points of this compact but valuable treatise, the usefulness of which is increased by a full index.

*Henry Jones Ford.*

GUIDE TO THE LAW AND LEGAL LITERATURE OF GERMANY. By EDWIN M. BORCHARD, Law Librarian (Library of Congress). Washington: GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE. 1912. pp. 226.

TENTATIVE HEADINGS AND CROSS-REFERENCES FOR A SUBJECT CATALOGUE OF AMERICAN AND ENGLISH LAW. Prepared under the direction of EDWIN M. BORCHARD, Law Librarian (Library of Congress), by ROSCOE H. HUPPER. Washington: GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE. 1911. pp. 150.

To every lawyer who may have occasion, for any purpose, to ascertain the existing rules of German law, public or private, on any subject; to every student who wishes to investigate any part of the German law, or to inquire into its history, or to familiarize himself with German ideas regarding the fundamental principles of law, the classification of legal relations, or the problems of legal education—to all such persons Mr. Borchard has rendered a great service. He has made it possible for them to ascertain, with a minimum expenditure of time and effort, where they can most readily obtain the information they desire. He gives his readers not mere lists of books, but a series of brief notes on the scope, the character and the special value of the best books. He gives them also a useful glossary of German legal terms; and his book is carefully indexed.

For the task he has undertaken the author has unusual qualifications. While a student at Columbia, he not only pursued the regular law course but devoted special attention to the study of Roman and modern civil law. As law librarian in the Library of Congress, he has been charged, for several years, with the development of a working library of foreign law. In building up this library he has not relied on catalogues, but has traveled, as his notes show, through the books themselves. What is more important, he has traveled through European ministries of justice, professors' studies and the offices of practicing lawyers, in order to learn from the best authorities what are regarded as the best books. Of these investigations the present *Guide* is a by-product. Given the ability and the capacity of sustained labor which the author possesses, such a method was sure to produce good results. The results are, in fact, so good that those who use this *Guide* will be moved to inquire when the author will give us similar guides